

THERE IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of controlling the power delivered by a heterojunction bipolar transistor power amplifier receiving an input power and delivering an amplified output power in a zero intermediate frequency architecture, said method including a step of detecting said output power and varying a control voltage of said power amplifier by means of a control loop and a step of varying said input power level of said power amplifier.
2. The method claimed in claim 1 wherein said input power is reduced if said output power is less than a predetermined limit value.
3. A circuit for controlling the power emitted by a heterojunction bipolar transistor power amplifier receiving an input power and delivering an amplified output power in a zero intermediate frequency architecture, said circuit including means for detecting said output power and varying a control voltage of said power amplifier and means for varying said input power of said power amplifier.
4. The circuit claimed in claim 3 wherein said means for varying said input power of said power amplifier are adapted to reduce it if said output power is below a predetermined limit value.
5. The circuit claimed in claim 3 including a variable gain pre-amplifier.
6. The circuit claimed in claim 3 wherein said means for varying said input power of said power amplifier include a variable attenuator.
7. A radiocommunication terminal including a power control circuit as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 6.